



Millennium Challenge Corporation

Reducing Poverty Through Growth

Press Statement

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CEO Paul Applegarth Sends Condolences for Tsunami Victims, Discusses Long-Term Assistance for Sri Lanka

A Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) delegation lead by CEO Paul Applegarth expressed condolences for tsunami victims to Sri Lankan Ambassador Devinda Subasinghe and discussed Sri Lanka's proposal for long-term assistance for poverty reduction and economic growth from the Millennium Challenge Account.

"Our presence represents hope," said Mr. Applegarth. "Helping people build their lives, helping countries improve their capacity to develop, and promoting sustainable growth is what Millennium Challenge Corporation does."

Ambassador Devinda and Mr. Applegarth discussed Sri Lanka's likely medium and long-term needs once the immediate humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka subsides.

FULL TEXT OF CEO PAUL APPEGARTH'S MESSAGE TO THE SRI LANKAN AMBASSADOR:

"We are here to express our heartfelt condolences. However, we don't want to divert any attention from the need to address the current humanitarian crisis in the affected regions.

The victims of this terrible tragedy are in need of food, shelter, medicine, water—which is being provided by our colleagues at USAID, other bilateral agencies, the UN, and private relief organizations—and they need all the assistance they can get.

Our presence here today represents something else—Hope.

It is common that after the immediate crisis phase of a disaster, the medium and long-term resources to rebuild and to allow people to restore their ability to grow and develop are in short supply.

Reducing poverty and helping people build their lives, helping countries improve their capacity to develop, and promoting sustainable growth is what Millennium Challenge Corporation does.

Sri Lanka recently has submitted to us a Compact proposal for long-term growth targeted to the poorest areas of the country, particularly the areas affected by two decades of civil conflict.

We are already in discussions as to whether this tragedy may shift Sri Lanka's priorities, which, if Sri Lanka chooses, might focus on tsunami-affected areas.

Obviously, at this point our discussions are only preliminary. Whatever results from our efforts, of course, will be consistent with MCC principles:

-Sri Lanka will determine its own priorities;

-MCC money must be invested to ensure the reduction of poverty through economic growth."

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